

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 DHA-02 /092 W  
-----011716Z 107006 /43

R 311219Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2297  
INFO USLO PEKING  
AMCONGEN HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4580

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR IN US  
SUBJECT: TIBETAN HUNGER STRIKE ENDS

REF: NEW DELHI 4313, NEW DELHI 4125 (NOTAL)

1. TWO TIBETANS FROM THE TIBETAN PEOPLES RANGZEN (FREEDOM)MOVEMENT APPEARED AT THE EMBASSY MARCH 29 AND ASKED TO DELIVER A FURTHER LETTER TO THE CHARGE. THE 29TH WAS AN INDIAN HOLIDAY AND THE EMBASSY WAS CLOSED, BUT THE TIBETANS AGREED TO LEAVE THE LETTER WITH THE RECEPTIONIST. THE TEXT IS BASICALLY A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF J.S. SZUSZKIEWICZ, DIRECTOR OF THE UN INFORMATION CENTER. THE TIBETANS EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE KIND RECEPTION THEY WERE ACCORDED AT THE EMBASSY ON MARCH 25 (REFTELS) AND "THE MANY SYMPATHETIC AND ENCOURAGING WORDS THAT YOU SPOKE TO US". THE EMBASSY OFFICER WHO HAD RECEIVED THE TIBETANS AT THAT TIME WAS SYMPATHETIC ANND POLITE, BUT PINTEDLY ABSTAINED FROM OFFERING ANY ENCOURAGEMENT. THE SECOND LETTER CLOSES, "WE ARE ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR YOUR PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TOWARDS OUR PLEA".

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2. TWO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OFFICERS WHO VISITED THE HUNGER STRIKE SITE MARCH 27 FOUND ALL SEVEN STRIKERS PRONE ON CHARPOYS (INDIAN-STYLE BEDS) BUT VERY MUCH ALIVE. THE BRITISH DIPLOMATS WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE SINCERITY OF THE SPOKESMAN, LODI GYARI, WHO THEY DESCRIBED AS AN ARTICULATE ADVOCATE OF THE TIBETAN CAUSE. THE TIBETANS TOLD THE BRITISH THEY HAD NO FROMAL

CONNECTION TO THE DALAI LAMA, BUT THAT " IN HIS HEART OF HEARTS" HE SUPPORTED THEIR ACTIVITIES. (OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES DOUBT THAT STATMENT REPRESENTS ANY MORE THAN A HOPE OF THE DEMONSTRATORS). THE SAME GROUP ALSO PARITCIPATED IN THE DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY ON MARCH 18. THEY ALSO TOLD THE BRITISH THAT FOREIGN MINISTER A.B. VAJPAYEE VISITED THE HUNGER STRIKE SITE JUST AFTER HIS ELECTION, BUT BEFORE HE WAS NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER. VAJPAYEE REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HIS SYMPATHY.

3. THE TIBETANS ENDED THEIR STRIKE ON MARCH 30 WHEN A GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE JANATA PARTY SURENDRA MOHAN ISSUED AN ORAL STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PARTY EXPRESSING SYMPATHY WITH THE SEVEN TIBETANS WHO "HAVE BEEN FASTING IN ORDER TO PRESS UPON THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD THE IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY OF THEIR CAUSE." THE BREAK IN THE FAST CAME WITH THE STRIKERS ACCEPTING THE SYMBOLIC GLASS OF JUICE OFFERED BY THE VENERABLE GANDHIAN LEADER ACHARYA KRIPALANI. THE UNION COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER, MR. GEORGE FERNANDES, TGENERAL SECRETARY OF THE JANATA PARTY, MR. SURENDRA MOHAN, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE INDIAN FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS OF INDIA, MRS. SAVITRI NIGAM, AND GENERAL (RETIRED) S.S. UBAN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF RELIGION FOR PEACE, WERE PRESENT. MR. FERNANDES SAID THAT FREEDOM WAS INDIVISIBLE. HAVING GAINED THEIRS, THE JANATA PARTY WOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THE LIBERTY OF OTHERS. A MESSAGE FROM MR. RAJ NARAIN, HEALTH MINISTER, EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE TIBETAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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URGED THEM TO END THEIR FAST.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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